Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

the use of steam power for the remainder of the year, these streams can be said to be of really little value to the state. There is no question but that the building of storage reservoirs at strategic points on water courses will assist in holding water back and allowing the streams to fill to a higher level through a longer period of the year, but the building of these reservoirs is only solving half the problem. If the forests are stripped off, allowing melting snow and rain to rush rapidly to the streams, this flood water will carry soil that will fill the reservoirs as rapidly as they are cleaned out. That this is the result of building reservoirs without proper reforestation of the headwaters of the stream has been videnced repeatedly in the Alps in France and Italy and in our own western mountains in California.

Forests have a marked influence in conserving the water which falls in the form of rain and snow. The branches of the trees break the force of the rain, letting it fall to the ground and pass into the soil easily. The cover formed by decaying leaves and sticks is a sponge-like mass called duff or humus, and this has a great water absorbing capacity. It takes up in proportion to its volume a vast quantity of water and gives it off slowly over a period of several months, thus maintaining springs and even flow in the streams.

General uniformity of stream flow in every section of the country will probably be brought about only as the result of widespread and intelligent reforestation combined with a limited number of large storage reservoirs at the headwaters of streams. If in connection with the reforestation of the barren areas, storage reservoirs are constructed so that the flood waters of spring may be impounded and given off gradually during the dryer seasons of the year, the combination of the two—the forest and the storage reservoirs—will come as near solving the problem of uniform flow in our streams as anything that can be contrived by man. Proper control of runoff is the only thing that will maintain a supply of water in streams upon which manufacturing industries are dependent and insure proper levels for navigation.

While forests act as protectors of the soil and conservers of water, they will be producing a crop of wood that will give increasingly large returns. There are, therefore, both direct and indirect benefits to be obtained from the reforestation of the nonagricultural hillsides and ridges which form so considerable a part of the great state of New York. There should be, therefore, constant cooperation between those who wish to develop the waterpower of the state or cities using water from our forests with the agencies carrying on reforestation. Without proper forest cover there can not be proper water supply.

SCIENTIFIC ITEMS

We record with regret the death of Dr. Brown Ayres, president of the University of Tennessee and previously professor of physics at Tulane University; of Rolla C. Carpenter, professor of experimental engineering at Cornell University; of William Erskine Kellicott, professor of biology at the College of the City of New York, and of Professor R. Nietzki, professor of chemistry at Bâle.

The gold medal of the National Institute of Social Sciences has been awarded to Dr. Wm. H. Welch, of the Johns Hopkins Medical School. —Dr. J. A. L. Waddell, whose recent articles on engineering fifty years hence will be remembered by readers of this journal, has been elected a corresponding member of the Paris Academy of Sciences.